

REMARKS

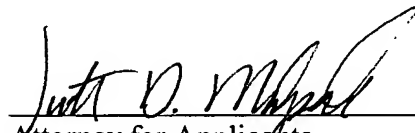
Claims 1-14 are presented for consideration, with Claims 1, 6 and 10 being independent.

The specification has been amended to correct minor informalities and improve its idiomatic English form. In addition, editorial changes have been made to Claims 1-9. Claims 10-14 have been added to provide an additional scope of protection.

Due consideration and prompt passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott D. Malpede", is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicants  
Scott D. Malpede  
Registration No. 32,533

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112-3801  
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

SDM/vmm

DC\_MAIN 152713v1